

Message Text

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PAGE 01 MOSCOW 08331 161444Z

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ACTION SS-25

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 1268

C O N F I D E N T I A L MOSCOW 8331

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: OVIP (NOVIKOV, IGNATIY T), PFOR, US, UR

SUBJECT: TRAVEL OF USSR COUNCIL OF MINISTERS DEPUTY CHAIRMAN
NOVIKOV

1. AT AIRPORT JUST BEFORE DEPARTURE FOR US TO ATTEND ANNUAL MEETING ON JOINT COMMISSION ON HOUSING CONSTRUCTION, GOSSTROY CHAIRMAN IGNATIY TROFIMOVICH NOVIKOV (A DEPUTY CHAIRMAN OF USSR COUNCIL OF MINISTERS) TOLD EMBOFF THAT HE HAD SPENT EVENING OF JUNE 14 WITH GENERAL SECRETARY BREZHNEV, WHO HAD GIVEN HIM MESSAGE FOR PRESIDENT FORD "IN EVENT HE MET PRESIDENT". NOVIKOV REMARKED FURTHER THAT HE HOPED EMBASSY HAD PAID CLOSE ATTENTION TO BREZHNEV'S JUNE 13 PRE-ELECTION SPEECH, WHICH "INCLUDES UP-TO-DATE STATEMENT OF SOVIET POLICY TOWARD YOUR COUNTRY."

2. COMMENT: ACCORDING TO EMBASSY'S INFORMATION, NOVIKOV WILL BE TAKING PART IN JOINT COMMITTEE SESSIONS IN WASHINGTON JUNE 15-16, PRESUMABLY AT DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT SINCE SECRETARY HILL IS CO-CHAIRMAN OF JOINT COMMISSION. WE UNDERSTAND NOVIKOV AND MEMBERS OF HIS DELEGATION PLAN TRAVEL OUTSIDE WASHINGTON BEFORE RETURNING TO USSR APPROXIMATELY JUNE 30.

3. PORTION OF BREZHNEV SPEECH ALLUDED TO BY NOVIKOV PRESUMABLY STARTS WITH PARAGRAPH BEGINNING QTE THE APPROACH OF OUR PARTY AND OF OUR STATE TO INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS IS WELL KNOWN... UNQTE AND CONTINUING THROUGH PARAGRAPH BEGINNING QTE COMRADES, WHAT OUR PARTY IS DOING IN THE FIELD OF FOREIGN POLICY...

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